

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives, characterized by decrease in the amount of unbound glyoxal, wherein the glyoxal treated polysaccharide derivatives are treated with an aqueous solution of one or more water-soluble aluminium salts, or one or more water-soluble borates, or a combination of one or more water-soluble aluminium salts and one or more water-soluble borates and, optionally, with suitable buffer substances to set pH of the glyoxal treated polysaccharide derivative, and dried.
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- 10 2. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the pH of a 2% strength solution of the glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivative is between 4 and 8.
- 15 3. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative was treated with more than 0.4% by weight of glyoxal, based on the polysaccharide derivative.
- 20 4. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the ratio of water-soluble borate to glyoxal is less than 0.5:1, based on the weight of the two substances used.
- 25 5. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the content of extractable, unbound glyoxal is less than 0.1% by weight.
6. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1, characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative is cellulose ether.

7. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1,
characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative contains alkyl groups.
8. Glyoxal-treated polysaccharide derivatives according to Claim 1,
5 characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative is methyl hydroxyethyl
cellulose or methyl hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose or mixtures
of these substances.
9. Process for decreasing the unbound glyoxal in glyoxal-treated
10 polysaccharide derivatives, comprising:
 - a) mixing the polysaccharide derivative at a temperature between 20
and 70°C with an aqueous solution of one or more water-soluble
aluminium salts, or one or more water-soluble borates, or a
15 combination of one or more aluminium salts and one or more
water-soluble borates, wherein the resulting mixture optionally
contains further buffer substances to set the pH, and then
 - b) drying the mixture.
- 20 10. Process according to Claim 9, characterized in that the buffer substance is
one or more salts of citric acid or one or more salts of phosphoric acid.